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695 party to present a pig. The pig is supposed to be sacrificed
712, to a goddess, *Ka 'lei syndar*, i.e. the goddess of the State,
[774] but it is invariably eaten by the Siem and the members of the durbar. The Siem then calls out "*kumta ne khyorew*" (is it not so, young people?) The members of the durbar then reply, "*kaoid kumta khein khyorew*" (yes, it is so, young
• 681 ones). Sentences of fine are more often resorted to than other
697 punishments nowadays, probably because very few of the Siems possess jails for the reception of criminals. The condemned one in a criminal case frequently serves his time by working for the Siem as a menial servant. The above description, which is based on the account given by the Rev. W. Lewis, with some modifications, may be taken as the usual form of procedure of the Khasi durbar.

682 Under the heading of decision of disputes we may perhaps
712 give a short description of some of the punishments which were inflicted by the Siems and their durbars in criminal cases in ancient times. Murder was punishable by beating the culprit to death with clubs (*ki tongpa ki lyndon*). The killing, however, of a *nong shah sah*, i.e. a man who seeks for human victims to sacrifice to the monster, a *thlen*, is not considered murder, even now by the Khasis, and the slayer of the *nong shah sah* only has to inform the Siem and deposit Rs. 5, and one pig in the Siem's court. The slaying of a robber also is dealt with in like manner.

689 The punishment of adultery was imprisonment for life (*ka sah dain noh*), or a fine of Rs. 1,000, and one pig (*ka khadawi synik ani dak*). Whether such a heavy fine was ever paid is perhaps doubtful, and probably some other form of punishment was substituted for it. A husband finding his wife and a man in *flagrante delicto* could, as under the law of the ancients, kill both adulterer and adulteress without punishment for murder. The man, however, bound to deposit Rs. 5, and the conventional pig in the Siem's durbar. The punishment for rape (*kaba khmat tyngai*) was imprisonment for life in the case of the woman being married, and a heavy fine and one pig if the
675 woman was a spinster. Arson was punishable with imprison-
688 ment for life, or a heavy fine. The punishment for causing people to be possessed by devils (*ka ka ni-kmaid briew*) was